



Welcome to the 2012 Spring Soccer Season!

Thank you for making the commitment to mentor and coach the children in our program. Your role in the development of the kids at this young age is very important as we build the foundation and love of this fabulous game known as soccer. For those of you where this isn't your first time coaching in our program, welcome back. For our first timers, we want you to know up front you are not alone and we are all here to support you! Coaching mentors, MYS Board members, and fellow coaches, we are all here to ensure your time spent with the kids is both enjoyable and rewarding.

In 2007, Mansfield Youth Soccer (MYS) became one of the "early adapters" of a teaching philosophy known as Small Sided Soccer. Smaller fields, fewer players, more touches = a developmentally appropriate - fun environment that focuses on the young soccer player. US Youth Soccer has been using this program for close to 10 years. The number of programs utilizing this teaching philosophy increases every year, and today close to 70% of the programs nationwide utilize some format of small sided soccer. In fact, Soccer isn't alone....today, Hockey, Basketball, and even Baseball leagues are introducing similar small sided programs!

In order to execute the Small Sided Program, we formed a partnership with Mass Youth Soccer. How does this help you?

- Well for the **U5 & U6 coaches**, each week we provide you a Session Plan (aka agenda) for you to follow. Fun, easy to teach & follow "games" for literally every second you are on the fields with the kids!
- For the **U7 & U8 coaches**, we have taken it a step further. In addition to the weekly Session Plans, we provide you with a *Professional Coach* from **Mass Youth Soccer** that will attend your Saturday practices/games. The "Coaches Coach" will provide a 15 minute in-service prior to the kids arriving, go over the Session Plan and provide you hints on what to look for and how to address/teach the kids proper technique. This program has been enormously successful, and we look to continue it so long as everyone takes advantage of this resource.

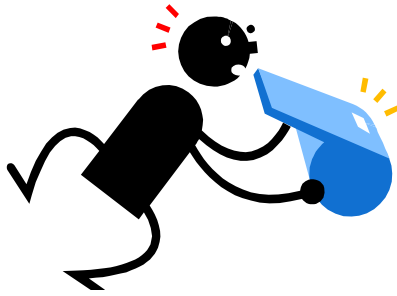
For all coaches, MYS encourages you to obtain your G & F Coaches Course. The courses provide invaluable information on the mindset of the age groups you will be coaching, techniques for effective training sessions, and hints on how to deal with challenging coaching situations (i.e. parents, physical players, game situations...). The G course is available on-line or you can register for an in-person course nearby. Upon the successful completion of each course, you will be awarded with a License. As if this isn't reason alone, MYS will reimburse you for the course fee!

On the following pages, you will find some supporting information, as well as an outline of how your day(s) will go this season.

In closing, let me take this opportunity to thank you again for volunteering to coach in our program. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your section coordinator or myself at j.boushell@comcast.net.

Let the games begin!

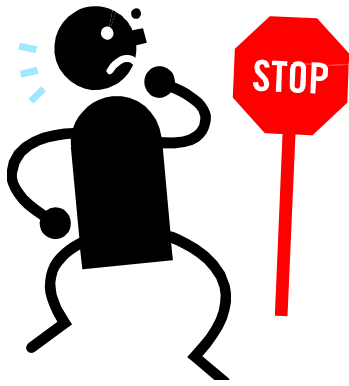
Jim Boushell
Director of Coach and Player Development



WHY SMALL SIDED SOCCER?

1. Because we want our young soccer players to touch the soccer ball more often and become *more skillful* with it! (Individual technical development)
2. Because we want our young soccer players to make *more, less-complicated decisions* during the game! (Tactical development)
3. Because we want our young soccer players to be more physically *efficient* in the field space they are playing in! (Reduced field size)
4. Because we want our young soccer players to have more *individual teaching time* with the coach! Fewer players on the field and fewer players on the team will guarantee this! (Need to feel worthy and need to feel important)
5. Because we want our young soccer players to have *more, involved playing time* in the game! (More opportunity to solve problems that only the game presents)
6. Because we want our young soccer players to have *more opportunity to play on both sides of the ball!* (More exposure to attacking and defending situations)
7. Because we want our young soccer players to have *more opportunities to score goals!* (Pure excitement)

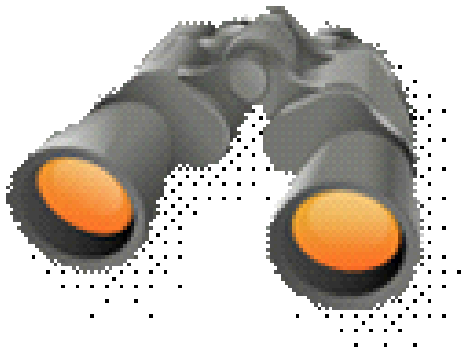




MYS wants to remind our members and friends that we support a Zero Tolerance program. What is Zero Tolerance?

ZERO TOLERANCE : All Coaches, players, and spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, the referee, and all other participants and spectators. In accordance with BAYS and Mass Youth Soccer Association (MYSA), MYS has adopted the following rules:

- i. No one, except the players, is to speak to the referee during or after the game. Exceptions: Coaches may ask questions before the game, call for substitutions, and point out emergencies during the game, or respond to the referee if addressed.
- ii. Absolutely no disputing calls during or after the game, no remarks to the referee to watch certain players or to attend to rough play. No yelling, approaching, or coming in direct contact with the referee; including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or feedback of any kind during or after the game.
- iii. During and after a game, the coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players and parents.



Where can I find....

- **Mansfield Youth Soccer Website:** www.mansfieldyouthsoccer.com
- **Session Plans:** <http://www.mansfieldyouthsoccer.com/coaches.shtml>
- **Game Schedules:** <http://www.mansfieldyouthsoccer.com/schedules.shtml>
- **Field Locations:** <http://www.mansfieldyouthsoccer.com/fields.shtml>
- **RAIN Information:** Field closures will be posted on the MYS website in the “RED” information box at the top of the page. Updates will be posted by 7am each day.
- **Coaches Courses :** G and F License:
http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/online_programs/g.aspx

ALL U7 & U8 Coaches; below is an outline of how your Saturdays will be run:

- o Each week, print out the Session Plan for that day.
- o Arrive to Fields 20 minutes prior to scheduled Start Time (of games/practices)
- o 15 minutes prior to Start Time, Mass Youth Soccer coach will be demonstrating that day's Session Plan. (it is mandatory for a coach from each team to participate)
- o Practice Time: Break off to your scheduled location and set-up your field according to the lesson plan.
- o Execute the lesson plan focusing on:
 - 1. Kids Engaged
 - 2. Encourage kids to execute what they learned in lesson
 - 3. Don't point out what they are doing wrong, exaggerate what they are doing correct and then suggest correction.
 - 4. Nobody Wins or Loses...its fun!
- o Game Time: Play your small sided games.
- o POST GAME: Each week, the Mass Youth Soccer Coach will provide us with feedback on how the practices/games went the prior week. This is constructive information that all coaches will benefit from!